

Please add the following new claims:

11. (New) A service element that belongs to a distributed system as a component among a plurality of components of the distributed system that are independent of one another and interconnected by a bus, comprising:

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an arrangement for configuring other ones of the plurality of components;  
an arrangement for equipping the other ones of the plurality of components;  
an arrangement for maintaining the other ones of the plurality of components; and  
an arrangement for performing an emergency function.

12. (New) The service element according to claim 11, further comprising one of:

an arrangement for detecting a new component and for integrating the new component into the distributed system; and

an arrangement for operating a display device to represent information about a configuration.

13. (New) The service element according to claim 12, further comprising:

an arrangement for performing an error diagnosis of software running on the other ones of the plurality of components; and

an arrangement for, in the case of an error, correcting the software within a framework of maintenance.

14. (New) The service element according to claim 13, further comprising:

an arrangement including a communication element and for loading new software for the plurality of components.

15. (New) The service element according to claim 14, further comprising:

an arrangement for allowing a remote diagnosis of the plurality of components of the distributed system.